

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

(1) Plastic container with a separately formed handle, which comprises:
a hollow body of plastic material having a lower, supporting base, a sidewall extending upwardly from the base, a shoulder portion extending upwardly from the sidewall, and an upper neck portion with an opening therein extending upwardly from the shoulder portion;

a separately formed handle having an annular portion engaging said neck portion and supported thereby, and a handle portion extending downwardly from the annular portion;
and

wherein said neck portion and annular portion each include at least one engagement surface which fit together to form at least one projection seated in at least one groove.

(2) Plastic container according to Claim 1, wherein the separately formed handle is plastic, and wherein the inside surface of the annular portion of the handle includes at least one inwardly extending groove, and the neck portion includes at least one outwardly extending projection seated therein.

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(3) Plastic container according to Claim 2, including a plurality of said grooves and projections, with each projection seated in a groove, wherein said grooves and projections are spaced around the circumference of said annular portion and neck portion, respectively.

(4) Plastic container according to Claim 2, wherein the neck portion includes a threaded section and an outwardly extending rim below the threaded section, and wherein the annular portion of the separately formed handle engages the neck portion below said rim.

(5) A plastic container according to Claim 2, wherein said handle portion includes two downwardly extending arms secured together by a locking engagement.

(6) A plastic container according to Claim 2, wherein the shoulder portion of said hollow body includes a plurality of spaced apart, downwardly extending, outward ribs.

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(7) A plastic container according to Claim 2, wherein the lower portion of said sidewall includes at least one, inwardly extending rib circumscribing the circumference of said hollow body.

(8) A plastic container according to Claim 2, wherein said sidewall includes an inwardly curved portion, and wherein said handle portion extends adjacent said inwardly curved portion.

(9) A plastic container according to Claim 8, wherein said inwardly curved portion includes at least one downwardly extending outward rib.

(10) A plastic container according to Claim 2, wherein the base of said hollow body includes an inwardly extending portion, a peripheral rim, and a plurality of outward ribs extending between the inwardly extending portion and peripheral rim.

(11) A plastic container according to Claim 8, wherein the lower portion of said inwardly curved portion includes an outwardly extending ridge, and wherein the handle portion includes an end portion which is spaced above said ridge.

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(12) A plastic container which accommodates a separately formed handle, comprising:
a hollow body of plastic material having a lower supporting base, a sidewall extending upwardly from the base, a shoulder portion extending upwardly from the sidewall, and an upper neck portion with an opening therein extending upwardly from the shoulder portion; and
wherein said neck portion includes at least one engagement surface which fits together with at least one engagement surface on a separately formed handle to form at least one projection seated in at least one groove.

(13) A plastic container according to Claim 12, wherein the neck portion includes at least one outwardly extending projection to mate with at least one inwardly extending groove on the separately formed handle.

(14) A plastic container according to Claim 13, including a plurality of said outwardly extending projections spaced around the circumference of said neck portion to mate with a plurality of grooves on said separately formed handle.

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(15) A plastic container according to Claim 14, wherein the neck portion includes a threaded section and an outwardly extending rim below the threaded section, and wherein said projections are positioned below said rim.

(16) A plastic container according to Claim 13, wherein the shoulder portion of said hollow body includes a plurality of spaced apart, downwardly extending, outward ribs.

(17) A plastic container according to Claim 13, wherein the lower portion of said sidewall includes at least one, inwardly extending rib circumscribing the circumference of said hollow body.

(18) A plastic container according to Claim 13, wherein said sidewall includes an inwardly curved portion, and wherein the handle portion of said separately formed handle extends adjacent said inwardly curved portion.

(19) A plastic container according to Claim 18, wherein the lower portion of said inwardly curved portion includes an outwardly extending ridge.

(20) A plastic container according to Claim 18, wherein said inwardly curved portion includes at least one downwardly extending outward rib.

(21) A plastic container according to Claim 13, wherein the base of said hollow body includes an inwardly extending portion, a peripheral rim, and a plurality of outward ribs extending between the inwardly extending portion and peripheral rim.

(22) A handle configured to be attached to a separately formed container, which comprises:
a first open position and a second closed position;
said first open position having semi-circular central portions connected by a hinge, wherein at least one engagement surface is provided on the semi-circular portions configured to engage at least one engagement surface on the separately formed container to form at least one projection seated in at least one groove; and
said second closed position having said semi-circular portions closed to form an annular portion configured to engage the neck portion of the separately formed container with the engagement surfaces fitted together, and having a handle portion extending from said annular portion.

(23) A handle according to Claim 22, wherein said first open position includes two arm portions extending outwardly from the semi-circular portions, and said second closed position includes said two arm portions connected together to form said handle portion.

(24) A handle according to Claim 23, including at least one inwardly extending groove on the inside surface of the semi-circular portions configured to engage at least one projection on the neck portion of the separately formed container.

(25) A handle according to Claim 24, including a plurality of said grooves on said semi-circular portions spaced around the circumference thereof configured to engage a plurality of said projections.

(26) A handle according to Claim 23, wherein said arm portions are secured together by at least one pin on one arm engaged with at least one hole on a second arm in a locking engagement.

(27) A handle according to Claim 23, wherein said handle is plastic.